

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an immunogenic portion of a soluble *M. tuberculosis* antigen, wherein the nucleic acid hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:46 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:26-51, 138, 139, 163-183, 201, 240, 242-247, 253-256, 295-298, 309, 316, 318-320, 322, 324, 328, 329, 333, 335, 337, 339, and 341,~~ or a complement thereof.

39. (previously presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid of claim 38.

40. (previously presented) A host cell comprising an expression vector of claim 39.

41. (previously presented) The host cell of claim 40, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, yeast, and mammalian cells.

42. (previously presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid of claim 38 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

43-51. (canceled)

Appl. No. 10/084,843
Amtd. dated March 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 11, 2004

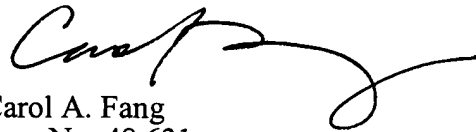
PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol A. Fang
Reg. No. 48,631

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
CAF:caf
60168867 v1